

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (Currently Amended). An ultrasound applicator for applying ultrasound energy to the thoracic cavity of an individual, said ultrasound applicator comprising

a housing sized for placement on a chest ~~on~~ or near the sternum,

an ultrasound transducer carried within the housing to transcutaneously apply ultrasound energy to the thoracic cavity, the ultrasound transducer being sized to provide a power density not exceeding 3 watts/cm² at a maximum total power output of no greater than 200 watts operating at a fundamental therapeutic frequency not exceeding 500 kHz, whereby the application of ultrasound energy increases the blood flow of the individual; and

an assembly worn on the chest and affixed to the housing, to stabilize placement of the housing on the chest during application of ultrasound energy, the assembly including components worn about the neck and/or back that leave the chest on opposing lateral sides of the housing uncovered, to not impede placement of another treatment device on the chest alongside the housing at the same time the housing is stabilized on the chest by the assembly.

2 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the assembly includes a quick release mechanism.

3 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the assembly includes a quick release material.

4 (Previously presented). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the components include a sling worn between the waist and shoulders.

5 (Previously presented). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the components include a halter worn about the chest and shoulders.

6 (Canceled).

7 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the housing includes a chamber to hold fluid about the ultrasound transducer.

8 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the housing accommodates circulation of fluid about the ultrasound transducer.

9 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1

wherein the housing includes an ultrasound conducting interface.

10 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a contour-conforming interface with skin.

11 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a skirt that spaces the ultrasound transducer from
contact with skin.

12 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes an ultrasound-conducting membrane for contacting
skin.

13 (Currently amended). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing is has an elongated shape along a superior-to-inferior axis of the
sternum.

14 (Original). An applicator according to claim 1
wherein the housing includes a coupling assembly to releasably couple the ultrasound
transducer to an external electric signal generating machine.

15 (Previously presented). An applicator according to claim 14
wherein the assembly includes a quick coupling mechanism.